

The People's Millennium Forests

Ballygannon Wood, Co. Wicklow

The **People's Millennium Forests** is the largest-ever project in Ireland aimed at restoring and managing our native woodlands. **Native woodlands** are forests or woodlands made up of tree species that occur naturally in Ireland, such as oak, ash, elm, Scots pine, yew and birch.

Once an intimate part of our culture, Ireland's native woodlands were in danger of becoming a lost legacy and this project, with the support of AIB and the National Millennium Committee, is a hugely successful step to redress centuries of over exploitation, neglect and clearance of our native forests.

To coincide with the celebration of the third Millennium in 2000, sixteen woodlands around Ireland, comprising fifteen hundred acres, were chosen as the **People's Millennium Forests**, and were dedicated in perpetuity to the people of Ireland. 1.3 million young trees of native species were planted on the sites – a tree for every household in Ireland. The millennium trees were planted in sections of the area shown as Young, Mixed Native Woodland on the accompanying map. These saplings have developed into a young, vibrant, **native woodland community**, rich in both plant and animal life. It will take centuries for these forests to reach ecological maturity. Naturally, some of the trees you see here today will disappear from the developing forest, while others will survive to maturity. Many more young trees will join the developing woodland through natural processes over time.

Situated on the western side of the Avonmore river, **Ballygannon Wood** forms part of The Vale of Clara Nature Reserve, which is one of the biggest expanses of oak woodland in the eastern counties of Ireland. The Vale of Clara oak woodland has ancient origins, and has links to the native forests of pre-history. Ballygannon Wood has been managed for timber for over 400 years, and was planted with conifer forest during the 20th Century. The conifer plantation was removed in 2000 and native trees were planted under the People's Millennium Forest project.

Today, where the millennium trees were planted, you will see young, developing native woodland underneath older oak trees. There are also areas of mature native woodland, formed of old oak and Scots pine, with an understorey of holly, hazel and rowan. During spring and summer, honeysuckle and violets are among the flowers providing colour and diversity. Ballygannon Wood is home to many of our native animals including red squirrel, while the jay, long-eared owl, great spotted woodpecker, treecreeper and sparrowhawk are among the birds to be found here.

We hope you enjoy your visit.



Foraoiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail

Coill Bhaile na gCanónach, Co. Chill Mhantáin

Foraoiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail an tionscadal is mó riamh in Éirinn atá dírithe ar choillearnach dúchasach na tíre a athbheoú agus a bhainistiú. Is éard is coillearnach dúchasach ann ná foraoiseacha nó coillearnach ina bhfuil speiceas a bhaineann go nádúrtha leis an tír seo, speiceas mar dair, fuinseoig, leamhán, péine Albanach, iúr agus beith.

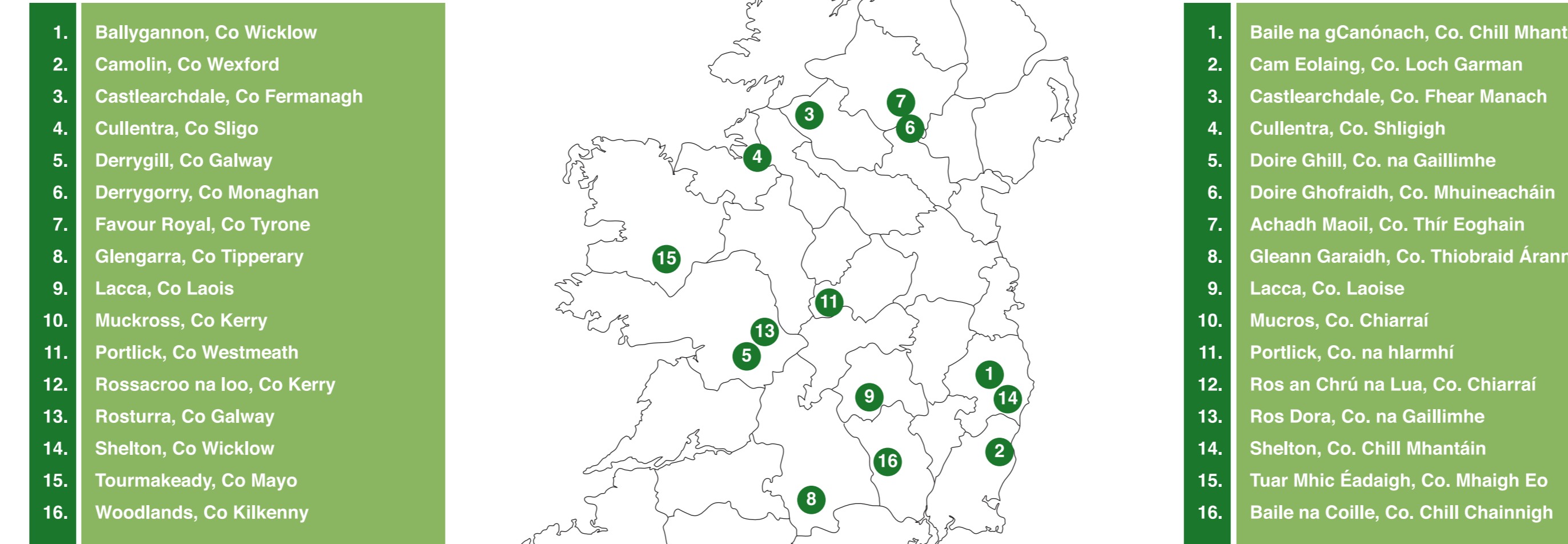
Cuid dlúth de chultúr na tíre tráth, tá coillearnach dúchasach na hÉireann anois i mbaol dul in éag agus is céim mhór chun cinn é an tionscadal seo, le tacaíocht ó AIB agus ó Choiste Náisiúnta na Mílaoise, le haghaidh a thabhairt ar an bhfaillí agus ar an dúshaothrú a rinneadh orthu leis na céadta bliain.

Tráth a rabhtas ag ceiliúradh na tríú Mílaoise in 2000 roghnaíodh sé choillearnach déag ar fud na hÉireann, cúig chéad déag acra ar fad, ar Fhoroiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail a fhágfar anois le hoidhreacht go brách ag muintir na hÉireann. Cuireadh 1.3 milliún crann de speiceas dúchasach ar na láithreacha - crann in aghaidh gach líon tí sa tír. In áiteanna sa limistéar ar a dtugtar Coillearnach Óg Dúchasach Measctha ar an léarscáil a théann leis seo a cuireadh crainn na mílaoise. Tá na crainn óga sin anois óg, láidir agus ar **choillearnach dúchasach** a bhfuil saibhreas plandaí agus ainmhithe ag baint leo. Glacfaidh sé na céadta bliain ar na foraoiseacha sin aibiú ó thaobh na héiceolaíochta de. Ar ndóigh ní mhairfidh roinnt de na crainn atá le feiceáil anseo inniu ach mairfidh cuid eile acu go mbeidh siad lán-aibí. Le himeacht ama fásfaidh crainn óga eile go nádúrtha sa choillearnach.

Suite ar an taobh thiar den Abhainn Mhór is cuid d'Anaclann Dúlra Ghleann an Chláraigh i **Coill Bhaile na gCanónach**, anaclann ina bhfuil ceann de na coillearnach is mó darach i gcontaetha in oirthear na hÉireann. Is coillearnach ársa é coillearnach darach Ghleann an Chláraigh a bhfuil ceangal aige le foraoiseacha dúchasacha réamhstaire. Tá adhmaid á thabhairt as Coill Bhaile na gCanónach le breis is 400 bliain agus cuireadh foraois bhuaircineach ann le linn na 20ú Aoise. Tugadh as na crainn bhuaircineacha sa bhliain 2000 agus faoi thionscadal Foraoiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail cuireadh crainn dhúchasacha ann.

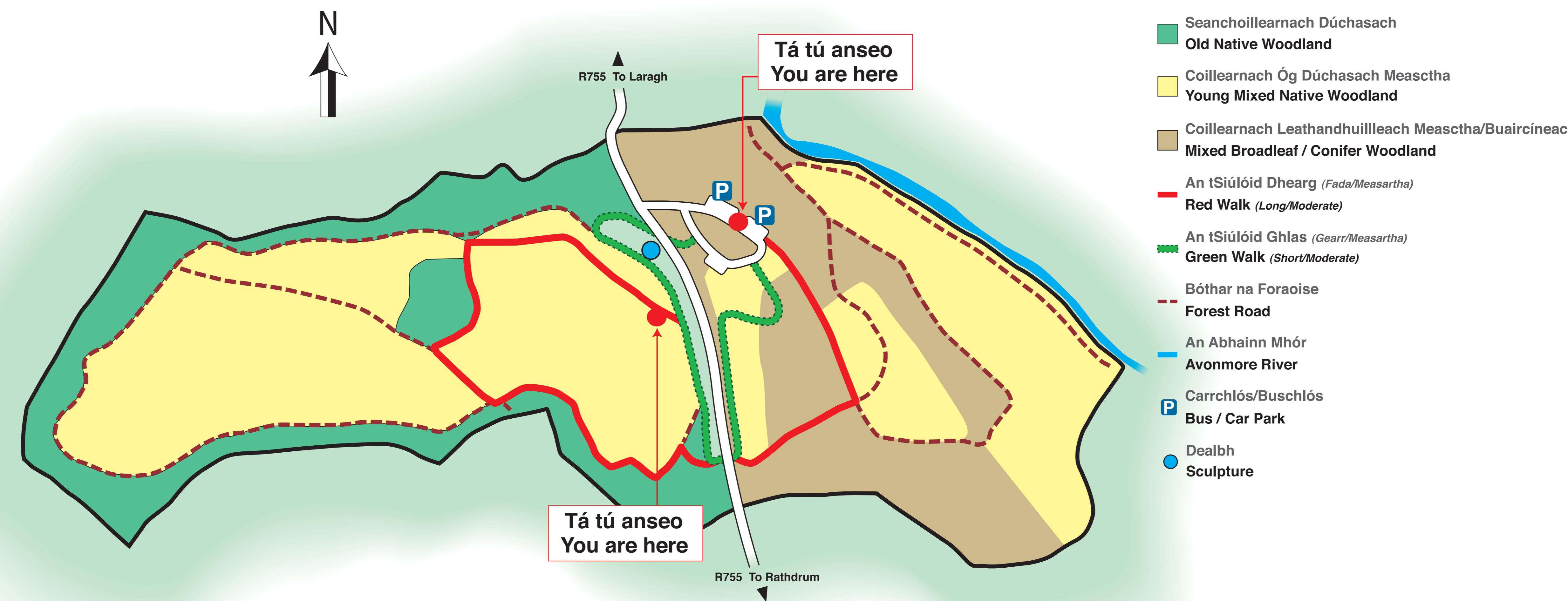
San áit ar cuireadh crainn na mílaoise tá coillearnach óg dúchasach le feiceáil ag fás faoi chrainte darach níos sine. Tá áiteanna ann a bhfuil coillearnach dúchasach aibí de sheanchrainn darach agus péine Albanach agus fásra de chuileann, coll agus caorthann fúthu. Tá an féithleann agus an tsailchuach i measc na mbláthanna a fhasann ann sa samhradh agus san earrach a chuireann le spleodar agus le héagsúlacht na coille. Tá go leor ainmhithe dúchasacha i gCoill Bhaile na gCanónach, ina measc an t-iora rua, an broc agus i measc na n-éan a bhíonn ann tá an scréachóg, an ceann cait, an mórchnagaire breac, an snag agus an spioróg.

Tá súil againn go mbainfidh tú sult as do chuairt.



1. Ballygannon, Co Wicklow
2. Camolin, Co Wexford
3. Castlerea, Co Fermanagh
4. Cullentra, Co Sligo
5. Derrygill, Co Galway
6. Derrygory, Co Monaghan
7. Favour Royal, Co Tyrone
8. Glengarra, Co Tipperary
9. Laccas, Co Laois
10. Muckross, Co Kerry
11. Portlick, Co Westmeath
12. Rossacree na Ioo, Co Kerry
13. Roslurra, Co Galway
14. Shelton, Co Wicklow
15. Tourmaline, Co Mayo
16. Woodlands, Co Kilkenny

1. Baile na gCanónach, Co. Chill Mhantáin
2. Cam Eolainn, Co. Loch Garman
3. Castlerea, Co. Fhear Manach
4. Cullentra, Co. Shligigh
5. Doire Ghill, Co. na Gaillimhe
6. Doire Ghoiraidh, Co. Mhuineacháin
7. Achadh Maol, Co. Thír Eogháin
8. Gleann Garaoidh, Co. Thiobraid Árann
9. Laccas, Co. Laoise
10. Mucros, Co. Chiarraí
11. Portlick, Co. na hIarmhí
12. Ros an Chruí na Lúis, Co. Chiarraí
13. Ros Dora, Co. na Gaillimhe
14. Shelton, Co. Chill Mhantáin
15. Tuair Mhic Eadsaigh, Co. Mhaigh Eo
16. Baile na Coille, Co. Chill Chainnigh



Iora Rua
Red Squirrel



An Cloigín Gorm
Bluebell



An Snag
Tree Creeper



Lus na Gaoithe
Wood Anemone

urraithe ag
sponsored by



á bhainistiú ag
managed by



i gcompháirtíocht le
in partnership with
Coillearnacha Dúchasacha



An Dair Nearnghásánach
Sessile Oak



Caor Chon
Guelder Rose



Cat Crainn
Pine Marten



Cuilleann
Holly

www.millenniumforests.com

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